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**NEW MAXIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT RATES
FOR UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS ANNOUNCED**

New maximum weekly benefit rates of \$441 for Unemployment Insurance, and \$561 for Temporary Disability Insurance, will be in effect for claimants whose Benefit Years begin on or after July 1, 2003, announced Marvin D. Perry, Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

These new rates reflect an increase of \$14 for Unemployment Insurance (UI) and \$18 for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI). The previous maximum rates were \$427 for UI and \$543 for TDI. Individuals who established claims for regular Unemployment Insurance benefits prior to July 1, 2003 will continue to be paid at their present rate for the duration of their Benefit Year. A Benefit Year is the 52-week period that starts once a new claim is filed.

The maximum rate for Unemployment Insurance benefits is set at 67 percent of the average weekly wage of workers covered by the Employment Security Act. The average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act in calendar year 2002 was \$659.54. Sixty-seven percent of that average weekly wage is \$441.89. After rounding down to the next lower dollar amount, the new maximum for Unemployment Insurance will be \$441.

The maximum weekly benefit rate for Temporary Disability Insurance is set at 85 percent of the average weekly wage paid to workers covered by the Employment Security Act. Accordingly, the new maximum for Temporary Disability Insurance is \$561 (85 percent of \$659.54 rounded to the next highest dollar amount).

